

Transforming Public Schooling: The Wars Resume!

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<https://www.syracuse.com/schools/2020/05/critics-slam-gov-cuomos-plan-to-reimagine-schools-with-bill-gates-foundation.html>

During a press briefing Tuesday, the New York governor wondered aloud if the “old model” of in-person learning was obsolete with today’s technology. He didn’t say buildings won’t reopen, but said the state is exploring the possibility that K-12 schools will utilize distancing learning in the future.

Cuomo also announced a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to evaluate possible changes to the education system, including providing more opportunities to students, using technology to reduce educational inequality, and recreating larger class or lecture hall environments with virtual classrooms.

According to U.S. News & World Report, groups in New York have already written to Cuomo and state education officials to voice their objections.

So the school transformation wars have resumed!

As always, the problem with the *overemphasis* on technology as a solution to educational inequities is that it *overrelies* on the belief that directly delivering instruction is sufficient. That is, the approach woefully ignores the need to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students (and families).

We highlighted this recently in discussing the supports needed when schools re-open. (See <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/spring20.pdf>.)

And the matter is at the heart of our Center’s research and development efforts which emphasize that any transformation of schooling must fully integrate a dedicated component for addressing factors interfering with learning and do so at a high priority level. (See <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>.)

As the discussion about transforming schools resumes, take a look at the two books we have developed for free online access:

>*Improving School Improvement*
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

>*Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide*
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

Then add your voices so we can share your views and ideas across the country.

Best wishes and be well,

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